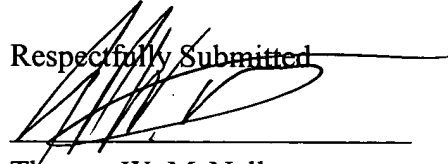


REMARKS

Before examination on the merits of the above-identified application, please enter the present Preliminary Amendment. By the present amendment, claims 1-8 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 9-16 are the claims which were withdrawn from the parent application, Serial No. 09/990,740, in view of a restriction requirement dated May 13, 2002. Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted



By: Thomas W. McNally
Reg. No. 48,609
Attorney for Applicants

F.CHAU & ASSOCIATES, LLP
1900 Hempstead Turnpike, Suite 501
East Meadow, New York 11554
Telephone: (516) 357-0091
Facsimile: (516) 357-0092